

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we intend to protect by Letters Patent is the following:

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1. A method for providing data from a first entity to a second entity, wherein said second entity is to perform processing using the data, comprising the steps of:

transferring the data from the first entity to the second entity;

storing the data as stored data at said second entity;

associating a data handle to the stored data, wherein said first and said second entity each are aware of the handle; and

invoking at least one service on said data by using said data handle

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising storing the data handle with the stored data.

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3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said transferring and said invoking are done simultaneously and wherein said method further comprises invoking at least one successive service on said data by using said data handle after said storing and associating steps.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first entity invokes the at least one service by providing at least service invocation information and said data handle to said second entity.

Sub B1 } 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said first entity invokes a plurality of services on said data by transferring a composite service invocation to said second entity.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said associating of the handle is conducted at the first entity and wherein the handle is transferred to the second entity.

Sub a2 } 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said associating of the handle is conducted at the second entity and wherein the handle is communicated from the second to the first entity.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said associating of the handle is performed by a third entity and communicated to said first and said second entity.

Sub B1 } 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said associating of a handle is performed implicitly by the transfer of said data.

10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising transforming said data from a first representation to a second representation.

11. The method of Claim 3 wherein said at least one service comprises data transfer across a network.

12. The method of Claim 3 wherein said at least one service comprises encryption of said data.

13. The method of Claim 4 wherein said at least one service comprises file I/O by the second entity.

14. The method of Claim 4 wherein the second entity comprises a kernel and wherein the service is provided by the second entity.

15. A system for providing data handling comprising:
a first entity having first data, said first entity including a transmitting component for transmitting at least said first data to a second entity and an invocation component for generating at least one service invocation comprising a data handle and service invocation information and for transferring said at least one service invocation to said second entity;

a second entity for storing said data transmitted from said first entity as stored data, for receiving said at least one service invocation, for locating data on which to perform at least one service, and for performing at least one service on said data; and

at least one data handle component for associating a data handle to the stored data and for communicating said handle to said first and said second entity.

16. The system of Claim 15 wherein said invocation component generates a composite service invocation comprising said data handle and service invocation information for a plurality of services to be performed using said data.

17. The system of Claim 15 wherein said at least one data handle component comprises a component of said first entity.

18. The system of Claim 15 wherein said at least one data handle component comprises a component of said second entity.

19. The system of Claim 15 wherein said first entity is located in a separate protection domain from said second entity.

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20. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing data from a first entity to a second entity, wherein said second entity is to perform processing using the data, said method steps comprising :

storing the data as stored data at said second entity;

invoking at least one service on said data by using said data handle

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